



# **John Reich Journal**

Volume 6 / Issue 3

July 1992

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTOR SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues ..... \$10.00

For general membership information write to:

Office of the President, David J. Davis

P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and/or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

Co-Editors

Bradley S. Karoleff and Keith G. Bellman

P.O. Box 135

Harrison, OH 45030

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Cover Photos: 1829 Curled Base 2 Bust Dime (JR-10). This is the discovery piece found in Dayton, Ohio in 1973.

Courtesy of: John McCloskey, discoverer.

# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the  
John Reich Collector's Society

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## Editors' Comments

The Fourth of July holiday is now behind us and all thoughts turn to the ANA. We hope to see many of you there. The annual meeting will take place Wednesday, August 12, 9:30 am in Room 13C. There will be many important matters discussed, please try to attend.

One of the main subjects to be discussed is increasing the dues. We are hoping to expand to a quarterly journal but the treasury is getting a little depleted. There were some extra costs involved with the changing editorship, as well as increased publishing and postage costs. Please, should you be in a position to make a small donation, we will be happy to accept anything. We are about half finished with a 'planned' October issue - for your fourth journal of 1992. Your donation will help to make this issue a reality.

The annual 'open house' will be held Wednesday evening at the Peabody Hotel. We will announce the room number during the 9:30 am meeting. You can also check with most of the 'Bustie' dealers on the floor Wednesday for the location and time. The open house is 'The Place' to meet and discuss your favorite coins with the best our hobby has to offer. We find it the highlight of most of our conventions.

You will find a ballot enclosed for the best article of 1992. We are sorry for the limited time for your response, but the award will be announced at the ANA meeting. There will be a much more relaxed schedule for next years voting. Please take the time to read the **JR Journal** and VOTE TODAY!

We need to apologize to David Finkelstein. We omitted his name from the Table of Contents of **JR Journal** Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992) on his fine article entitled *In Depth Description of the 1832 B-2 Quarter*. Sorry for the oversight, we really did appreciate the article. Please keep those articles and letters coming, we have 160 pages of information to fill for 1993.

This issue has many fine article from a half dime quiz to an update on Bogus Bust Halves. The saga of the counterstamped quarters continues, followed by die charts on half dimes which are useful in die study and attribution. Bulges on Bust Dimes is discussed along with the long awaited dime census. The other series will be reviewed in census form in the future, with our goal being a census every

other journal. Please consider participating, as the information carries more weight with each additional collection surveyed. This issue is then rounded out with various letters and 'shorts'. Thanks to each author for their submissions.

Finally, the Central States Mid-Winter Convention will be held in Cincinnati on September 18-20, 1992. There will be a JRCS regional meeting held sometime on Saturday. Please contact the editors if you can participate. We will send postcards to 'local' collectors with details after the ANA.

### **Mirror, Mirror on the Wall ...**

We have all heard horror stories told by collectors, of the raw deals they have gotten at one time or another; the stories of overpriced, overgraded and misattributed coins. Stories of useless guarantees, altered and even counterfeit pieces purchased in good faith for their collections. The tales of woe of coins sold in auction for far less than expected prices. We are all familiar with these occurrences, and probably have been victims of at least one through the years.

We have all conveniently laid the blame at the doorstep of the person (dealer or individual) who sold us the coin. True, there are some individuals out there merely looking to swindle the public, but we believe that there are many honest people in our hobby. There is no way to tell a dishonest or incompetent seller at a moment's notice. It may even take years to discover the truth about the individual. There is an easier answer however, one that will better serve us for the rest of our collecting lives: Acquiring KNOWLEDGE of numismatics.

Yes, knowledge is king. Armed with enough, you can deal with the most dishonest or incompetent seller and still come out ahead. How? Well, if you know the nuances of grade and variety for yourself, you will not fall victim to any sales hype. You can even learn to 'cherrypick' rare varieties from the most expensive of sellers.

Knowledge can be gained through two channels. One is experience and the other is study. One can survive without the other, but at great cost. Many of us are familiar with experience. We have already discussed it earlier. We experienced an unpleasant transaction and now we have the knowledge from 'the school of hard knocks.' This knowledge came after the fact; it is of no help with

the transaction. We can only hope that we learned enough so as not to let it happen again in the future. Many times this takes many years (and dollars) to manifest itself. This is the position that many of our unsuccessful collecting / investing friends find themselves in when deciding to liquidate their coins. They paid for their education in dollars. They usually complain that they did not have enough time to gain the knowledge through study, and trusted someone else's knowledge. This trust was sometimes misplaced, which resulted in severe financial losses and hard feelings.

The second avenue to gain knowledge is through study. There are many books, magazines, journals, newsletters, pamphlets, seminars and other methods available to help you gain knowledge. How many of you reading this have bought and read a book on numismatics in the last six months? How many of you have attended a 'Numismatic Theatre' presentation? How many are involved with your local coin club? How many of you have a numismatic pen pal or even have written a letter to the editor recently? See! There are many fun and rewarding avenues to pursue knowledge of your favorite numismatic subjects. All you need to do is invest the time and effort. There is always the expensive alternative, so next time, before you complain, take a look in the mirror and ask yourself if you researched the subject enough before purchasing.

There are many people (dealers and collectors) out there willing to give you advice. Find out who can help you and then remember to do something nice for them in return for their help. Knowledge is gained slowly, so use all the resources available to you to make the most informed decisions. The reputable sellers will have no problem allowing you to do this because a more informed collector is a better collector. The sellers who over price, over grade and misattribute will be available to be 'cherry picked' just as soon as you gain enough knowledge!

Knowledge itself is power.

Francis Bacon, of 'Heresies'

Have a safe trip to the ANA. Those of you who can't make it, a review will follow in the October issue!

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman



# Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points



Regarding Edgar Souder's article  
*Thirty Questions - Once Again* in  
Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992),

I do not agree with question 22's which states that  
"John Reich died in New York in:" (b) 1833.

One theory was that he died in New York, but there is still another that he died in the West. My research of churches and cemeteries in Albany, New York, where he was said to have gone after leaving the Mint, produces no evidence of his death.

The other theory says that he went West and died in 1832. My research finds him in Pittsburgh in the early 1820's. After checking the most prominent cities along the Ohio River to St. Louis, I found no evidence of his death or the date. It is presumably 1832 but I have found no proof.

Stew Witham

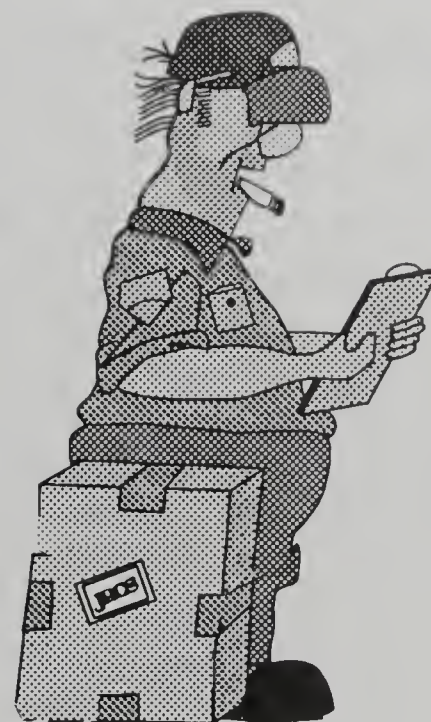


In Edgar Souder's latest *Thirty Questions - Once Again* article on Bust Half Dollars, he asks about the relative rarity between the square base and curled base 2's in 1827. He states in question 24 that there are

"49 generally accepted varieties [in 1827]." Has Edgar found a new one? Does he doubt that one of the 49 really exists?

Perhaps Edgar refers to O-32 from Overton's First Edition (1967). Both Beistle (11-M) and Breen make reference to it. If it exists, it would be the obverse of O-115 (OBV. 11) and the reverse of O-116 (REV. E). Keep your eyes open; this one can only be cherry-picked!

Russell J. Logan





In 1988, I acquired an 1831 Capped Bust Half Dime through a mail bid in choice EF. This attractive coin was readily attributed as a V5 as follows:

REV: 4138 RI close, but do not touch. Faint die crack at right wing tip to arrow. No die crack at A1 to scroll.

OBV: CBBU Second 1 in date under curl. First 1 centered ( $\pm$ ) over space.

There was, however, an unusual diagnostic on the reverse. An engraver's die scratch (raised, in relief on the coin) extends from the upper leaf, through the left wing tip and into the field under N1. This thin die scratch is quite distinct and easily visible, but must have worn away rather quickly in subsequent use of the die. I submitted the coin to Jules Reiver for his learned comments in May of 1988. He indicated that this is the very earliest die state for the V5 that he had seen, and has designated it the new V5a. It is much earlier than either the previous Valentine V5a or the V5a that is listed in Jules' excellent half dime **VIM**. The pending update of his **VIM** will correctly insert this VEDS.

I recently located another choice EF example of this same variety / die state, complete with the diagnostic die scratch, and would be pleased to put any interested party in touch with its present owner. Please contact me at: 89 Varney Mill Road, Windham, ME 04062

Stephen A. Crain



I have recently purchased an interesting Bust Half. It is an early die state of 1826 O-101. There is no sign of the die crack connecting the date that is listed in the Overton's **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties**. There are also a couple of die lines on the obverse which remind me of the inner circle seen on the middle date large cents! One die line is above star 7, much the same as the 1826 O-115. A third die line is seen to the left of the date. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with the same die state of this variety.

I am also interested in information about the 1808 O-102. I would also like to hear from anyone who has a Capped Bust Half with a die cud or a confirmed Proof Bust Half (along with pedigree information), so that I can add it to my database.

Thanks in advance! Thanks also goes out to those who have written articles for the **JR Journal**. I have enjoyed them all!

Bijan Anvar

(continues on page 25)



# The Other Broken Three

**Bijan Anvar**

We all know the 1823 O-101 Bust Half as being the 'Broken 3' and the O-101a as the 'Patched 3'. Overton, in his book, poses several questions about the variety. One of those questions asks, "...Why no three exists of such a punch before it broke?"

If we turn a few pages, we see the O-110 ('Perfect 3') and the O-110a ('Ugly 3'). Where is the 'Broken 3'? Why wasn't the same kind of question that was asked of the O-101 not asked of the O-110? Walter Breen, in his **Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins** (Breen:4645) states, "Broken 3. Ov. 110, unlisted early die state. Minute gap between halves of 3." This is not even listed in the Third Edition Overton, yet, I was told it is a common die state (which is really a late die state of O-110 ... or an early die state of O-110a). One of my questions is, why wasn't this listed in Overton's Third Edition? Surely it is an important subvariety, regardless of its rarity. Was it because the present O-110a would had to have been changed to an O-110b? I believe this subvariety is often confused with O-101 by less knowledgeable people, and partially because there is no information covering this subvariety (at least none that I have seen.)

The accompanying photograph shows what, in my opinion, should be O-110a. It clearly shows where the 'break' took place, and why a patch was required.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who owns an example of this die state, so that I can add this information to my database. I would like to be able to publish an approximate rarity rating, as well as a CC in a later issue.



Thanks in advance!

Bijan Anvar  
135-19 Roosevelt Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11354



# Bogus Bust Half Update

## Keith Davignon

Many thanks to those of you who responded to my inquiry in **JR Journal** Volume 5, Issue 2 (October, 1990) regarding a census of known dates and varieties of counterfeit Bust Halves.

Because of your assistance, a great deal more is now known about quantity, variety and relative scarcities of these curious pieces of 'Criminal Americana'. For those of you who sent pieces and others who may have some interest, I offer the latest list of known dates with the number of different die varieties in ( ).

1812	(1)	1821	(4)	1828	(9)	1835	(7)
1814	(2)	1822	(3)	1829	(5)	1836	(7)
1815	(6)	1823	(2)	1830	(11)	1837	(5)
1817	(1)	1824	(3)	1831	(9)	1838	(11)
1818	(3)	1825	(6)	1832	(11)	1839	(3)
1819	(2)	1826	(5)	1833	(21)	1840	(1)
1820	(3)	1827	(3)	1834	(8)	1842	(1)

(Total of 28 dates with 153 die varieties)

While there are many 'common' varieties, about half of the total known are unique pieces. Of the 70 or 80 new pieces that I have seen in the last year-and-a-half, only 3 have been new discoveries. Based on that track record, I am certain that all of the major, common varieties have been identified. However, I am equally confident that numerous unique varieties are still out there in the 'junk boxes' of all you Bust Half Nuts.





*[The following is an excerpt from the first part of Keith's 'book in progress']*

For those of you wishing to learn more about the subject of Bogus Bust Halves, I would recommend unearthing a copy of Stew Witham's excellent article in the **Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine**, Volume 36, Whole Number 407 (January 24, 1970, pages 66-71). This article points out the danger, even today, of someone being duped by one of these coins offered as a pattern, trial piece or new die variety. It contains photographs of a few dozen different bogus pieces.

An 1845 reference, J.L. Riddell's **Monograph of the Silver Dollar, Good and Bad**, in the ANA Library also lists and illustrates many counterfeit halves (some still encountered today!) Also of interest are sections of Don Taxay's **Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins** as well as Hancock and Spanbauer's **Standard Catalog of U.S. Altered and Counterfeit Coins**.

Now that it is mostly known what exists out there in terms of varieties of Bogus Bust Halves, the question still central, and largely unanswered remains, "Where did they come from?" Both Don Taxay and Stew Witham offer the generally accepted theory that most of them were made in Mexico, but neither offers any evidence or origin of this theory. Without the benefit of some painstaking research into early 19<sup>th</sup> Century court records, we may never really know for sure. The small amount of evidence I have been able to uncover suggests a variety of sources, Mexico included.



"One of the first recorded Canadian counterfeiting cases arose when Canada was barely five months old. On November 27, 1867, three brothers named John, Michael and Murtagh Tierney, and a friend Daniel Buckley, were busily occupied at a farmhouse near Ottawa making American half dollar coins!"

**Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine**, Volume 41, Whole Number 475, (September 1975, pages 28-30, 50, 52, 62) - *Counterfeit Coins and Canadian Law* by Robert Aaron



"The chief industry in Belleville [in 1835] was coining counterfeit money ... They did not counterfeit U.S. coin ... Their business was making good imitations of South American and Central American coins, and at the time there was no law against it. One man could not resist the temptation to make quarters and halves, and was caught thru a Negro servant who stole some of the coins and was arrested in trying to pass them."

**Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine**, Volume 8, Whole Number 78, (August 1942, pages 406-407) - excerpt from the Newark, NJ **Sunday Call**, June 2, 1895

"A railroad employee discovered a huge safe under a pile of rocks near Gray Cliff, Montana, not far from the cabin where counterfeiter Ellis was recently arrested and the counterfeiter's tools confiscated. The safe contained a lot of spurious silver dollars and halves, as well as dies and tools used in the manufacture of the same."

**Dickerman's U.S. Treasury Counterfeit Detector**

"In 1842 the Mint assayers said of coin counterfeiters: Prosecutions in this part of the country are not frequent, nor are spurious coins abundant; but in the Southern and Western states the case is different ... The circulation of American Dollars was at that time so small that it received little attention from the counterfeiters, but our large coinage of half dollars was extensively imitated in base metal ... Most of the counterfeits, which fall around the 1830's have ludicrous portraits of Liberty, are irregular in size and ring poorly. There is evidence that they were made in Mexico.

There is one remarkable exception. It is a half dollar of 1833 with both obverse and reverse dies so perfectly executed that they could not have been made in any other manner than by having the devices hubbed in from genuine U.S. Mint matrixes!"

**Lynn Glaser's Counterfeiting in America**, 1968

Indeed, if one compares the various known bogus halves, it becomes apparent that while some were extremely crude, and perhaps the work of some farmer, others are so good as to be undoubtedly made from dies prepared with hubs and matrixes removed from the Mint.



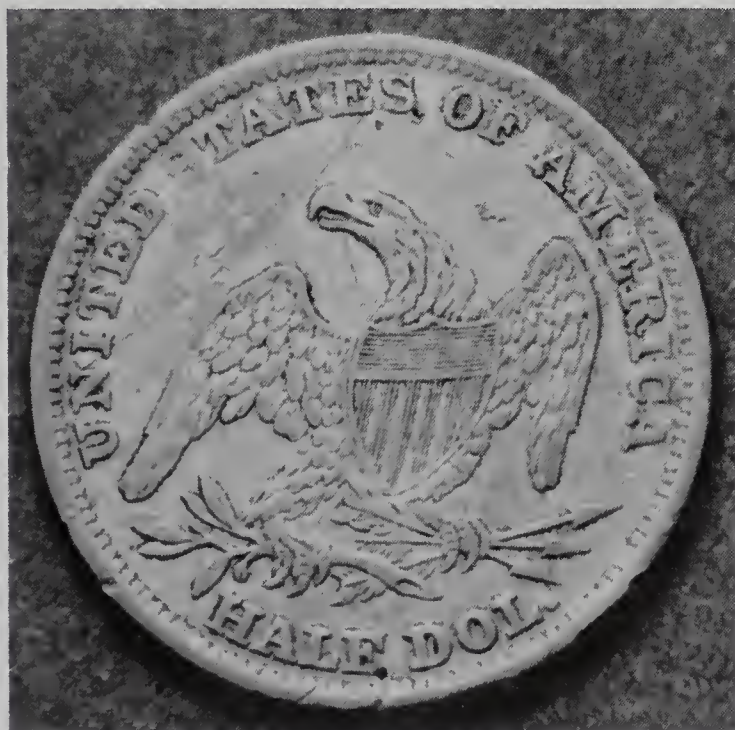
There are still other explanations for the few excellently made counterfeits. In the **Paul Bosco Numismatic Quarterly** (Fall / Winter 1983) the writer suggests:

"... In the 1830's the only significant uses of nickel in coin forgery rest with two coin types: Mexican 8 Reales and U.S. 50 Cents. The latter are struck from crudely engraved dies. Altho scarce, they are widespread enough, and come with various dates. They are too frequent and some too sophisticated to have been made by some farmer; it's just possible that the crudeness of die work was a ruse to deflect attention from a known manufacturer of (well-executed) tokens. Comparably crude 8 Reales are not found."

I have my own biases as to what the true origins of Bogus Bust Halves are, but am not yet prepared to offer any conclusions.

Does anyone out there have other ideas, theories or suggested sources for research? If so, please write! It is this open forum which makes the **JR Journal** unique.

If you have not yet contacted me and you have one, or an accumulation of Bogus Bust Halves, I ask once again for your help. I've found that putting coins on a Xerox machine usually makes adequate copies for basic identification. Please address any correspondence to the **JR Journal** editors, or to me personally.



Keith Davignon  
11 Wagon Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864

P.S. to Dave Davis: Did you ever find out more about those counterfeit dies that you mentioned in **JR Journal** Volume 5, Issue 1 (July, 1990)?





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# Twenty-Some Questions on Baby Busties

Mark Smith

Apparently, the only way to limit half dollar articles in the **JR Journal** is to submit something about another series, and occupy some space.

Dutifully accepting the editors' challenge, here is the inaugural attempt at extending Edgar E. Souders' quizzes to the other series. This quiz is limited to the Capped Bust Half Dimes, a nine year series, 1829 - 1837.

Hopefully these questions will prompt additional study into the series. If new information surfaces due to the (or in spite of) this quiz, then these efforts will be considered successful. If there are disputes as to the answers given, that should prove to be fun also, and will serve to advance the knowledge base on this series.

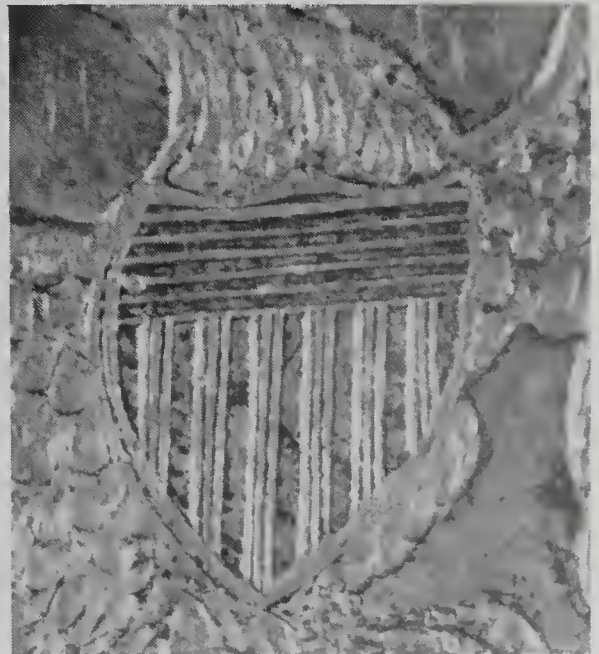
Since this series is not widely published, and only a few notes are passed back and forth between avid collectors, the following should be a reasonable measure of knowledge:

- 0 to 5     -    Go buy a **Redbook** or sell out your holdings. You don't know what you've got.
- 6 to 12   -    Very good. You're on the way.
- 13 to 18 -    You are up to speed.
- Over 18   -    You have accelerated beyond the norm and will surely be condemned (or harassed in print by the editors) to submit the next trivia quiz on this series.

1.    Capped Bust Half Dimes were struck at both the first and second Philadelphia Mint. In what year did the second Mint's coinage operations begin?
  - (a)        1830
  - (b)        1833
  - (c)        1837
  
2.    Which dates exhibit 'hollow' obverse stars?
  - (a)        1829 - 1832
  - (b)        1829 - 1834
  - (c)        1835 - 1837



3. Which edge type(s) is/are used in the series?  
(a) Lettered Edge  
(b) Reeded Edge  
(c) Both types
4. Who discovered the 1829 V18 variety (as published in a past **JR Journal**)?  
(a) Alan Bricker  
(b) Alan Marker  
(c) Al Overton
5. How many published die varieties exist in the Capped Bust Half Dime series?  
(a) 87  
(b) 90  
(c) 122
6. How many major varieties dated 1835 are listed in the **Redbook**?  
(a) 2  
(b) 3  
(c) 4
7. Which variety is described as 'no berries' by Valentine?  
(a) 1830 V3  
(b) 1832 V3  
(c) 1837 V3
8. Which other variety can be found with 'no berries' (or very nearly so)?  
(a) 1829 V2  
(b) 1834 V2  
(c) 1835 V2
9. What date is the coin pictured at the right?  
(a) 1829  
(b) 1832  
(c) 1837



10. Which date is the scarcest (by far) in Uncirculated grades?
  - (a) 1829
  - (b) 1832
  - (c) 1837
11. Who discovered the 1833 V9 variety?
  - (a) David J. Davis
  - (b) Russell J. Logan
  - (c) John W. McCloskey
12. Which Mint engraver prepared the new numeral punches introduced in 1835?
  - (a) William Kneass
  - (b) Christian Gobrecht
  - (c) Adam Eckfeldt
13. Which date has varieties from four obverse dies?
  - (a) 1834
  - (b) 1836
  - (c) 1837
14. Which 1834 variety, in early die state only, has dramatic vertical tool or scratch marks on the reverse fields as pictured below?
  - (a) V1
  - (b) V3
  - (c) V5
15. Which date boasts the most known die varieties?
  - (a) 1829
  - (b) 1832
  - (c) 1835
16. Which year has the lowest published mintage?
  - (a) 1829
  - (b) 1832
  - (c) 1837



17. Which large date 1835 variety is readily identified by the 'block 8' in the date?  
(a) V2  
(b) V3  
(c) V11
18. Which other date(s) exhibit the 'block 8'?  
(a) None  
(b) 1829  
(c) 1836 - 1837
19. Whose publication, in 1883, described early half dimes as "so slighted, especially when the larger members of the family, ... , are treated by their admirers with such distinguished attention, and so many articles written descriptive of their beauty"?  
(a) Bradley S. Karoleff  
(b) Harold P. Newlin  
(c) Will W. Neil
20. Which variety's reverse displays a 'large 5' denomination punch which is unique to the series?  
(a) 1829 V3  
(b) 1835 V8  
(c) 1837 V5
21. In which year was the coin pictured at the right struck?  
(a) 1829  
(b) 1832  
(c) 1837
22. In 1984, who published an updated pamphlet on die varieties and descriptions of Bust Half Dimes?  
(a) JRCS  
(b) Jules Reiver  
(c) Walter Breen





23. Which reverse displays what should properly be described as 'medium C' in the denomination?  
(a) 1829 V7  
(b) 1835 V7  
(c) 1836 V7
24. Which major auction house promoted the '3 over reverse 3' varieties, found on 1834 and 1836 obverses?  
(a) Bowers and Merena  
(b) Stacks  
(c) Superior
25. If you had an AG coin, without a date and other diagnostic features on either the obverse or reverse, but you could count the edge reeds as 98, what is the date?  
(a) 1829  
(b) 1832  
(c) 1836  
(If you know the answer to this one without cheating, contact me now!)

**BONUS QUESTION:**

26. What is the variety of the King of Siam Half Dime, as shown in **JR Journal**, Volume 6, Issue 2 (April 1992, page 29)?  
(a) V1  
(b) V2  
(c) V3  
(d) V4  
(e) V5

More detailed explanations of the answers are available by contacting the Editors or:

Mark Smith  
P.O. Box 1117  
Conover, NC 28613



**Answers to this quiz can be found on page 39**

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# **Damn Those Counterstamped Bust Quarters (Part III in the Continuing Saga)**

**Mark B. Hotz**

My first two articles on this subject, published in **JR Journal** Volume 2, Issue 3 (December 1987) and Volume 5, Issue 2 (October 1990), certainly have engendered much discussion among JRCS members. It is gratifying to have been the catalyst for this amount of numismatic research and debate, though it does seem that we are no closer to a solution to this puzzling Numismatic mystery.

Since the publication of my second article, much has occurred with regard to this matter. Most significantly was the symposium on this subject that was the 'main event' of the JRCS Annual Meeting at the Chicago ANA Convention. It now seems appropriate, in the light of all of this, to once again add my thoughts and comments in the hope of furthering the debate and encouraging the curious.

Larry Blackwelder's article in the **JR Journal** Volume 6, Issue 2 was very useful because it brought to the forefront, in a succinct manner, the main points of the discussion on this issue. Using Larry's article as a springboard, and as the originator of this debate, well, here we go again ...

It does appear unavoidable to note with some certainty that only two counterstamped letters have been located, the 'E' and the 'L'. I note this with some chagrin, as my old 'paint test' theory does not wash if there is no 'R'. Despite references in the old literature to an 'R' counterstamp on these Bust Quarters, no 'R' has ever surfaced. Given the amount of attention this subject has received over the past few years, the fact that no 'R' has surfaced must be taken at face value. It probably does not exist. I have to admit that I would be skeptical if one did surface. The mere fact that we have located many 'L' and 'E', but no 'R', indicates that my theory cannot be valid. If it were, the 'R' counterstamp would have been an integral part of that theory and should exist in some proportion to the other letters. So we have only 'L' and 'E'.

I have been one of the main advocates of the 'in the die' theory. Naturally, without knowing the reason for the counterstamping, it is hard to evaluate this position. It was much easier to support when I believed in the existence of the 'R'. Now I am not sure.

We do have some certainties though. The 'E' and the 'L' were struck with great care so as not to damage the reverse. They were also struck with great care as to location; 'E' always directly above the bust, 'L' always to the left. This is undeniable and I believe it to be of great significance. I also believe (rather firmly) that the same letter punches were used on all the coins. The several that I have examined appear to be from the same punches and I am willing to accept as fact, that the same punches were used. Presently, to assume the use of several different punches seems illogical.

After some thought, and having considered all of what I have read and heard on the subject, if I can set aside my 'officially in the dies' mindset for a moment, I would like to offer some completely different thoughts. It does seem very plausible that the countermarks were applied at the same time by the same person, persons or group. It does make sense to me that the 1815 dated coins might have been struck in 1825 using old dies. I do believe, however, that all of the countermarks were applied in or after 1825. The party or parties involved would have had to acquire a group of quarters at that time. It is entirely possible that a group of 1815 and 1825 quarters were available (from some bank, broker or business). These coins, as a rule, really did not circulate all that much and it is possible that some merchant or bank decided to hold the U.S. quarters in reserve and spend old worn Spanish Reales instead.

Larry's article contained one idea that did give me pause. It had been noted that of the quarters in existence, all are in high grade. Despite my references to notes in literature about the existence of these counterstamped pieces in low grade, I have never seen one. All we know of are the really nice ones! The fact that only nice ones exist is a clear reference to their being saved for some reason. But why?

At this time I can offer no answer. All of this, however, has made me think along different lines. One thought in particular came up, so let me offer it for your consideration. Some years ago I first learned of the existence of counterstamped Stone Mountain Half Dollars after reading Arlie R. Slabaugh's volume, **U.S. Commemorative Coins**, published in 1962. This subject has now become considerably well-known and elaborated on, especially in Swiatek and Breen's large volume, **The Encyclopedia of United States Silver and Gold Commemorative Coins (1892-1954)**, published in 1981. Certain Stone Mountain Half Dollars are found counterstamped with numbers and abbreviated state names, often with additional letters 'S.L.' or 'G.L.' (e.g. - LA. 13 S.L.). These counterstamps are known for all of the former Confederate States. What transpired was that, in order to raise funds for the completion of the Stone Mountain Memorial, these coins were taken, counterstamped



and numbered to be auctioned off in fund raisers. Upwards of \$100 or more was often paid for one of these pieces. Naturally, they were saved as mementos but relatively few are known today.

Is it possible that our counterstamped quarters were made for a similar purpose? The idea of school prizes does not make much sense because of the simplicity of the countermarkings, but perhaps it was for another purpose. This would explain the idea of all the coins being countermarked at the same time after 1825, and their being preserved in high grades. What purpose? Any ideas?

I greatly enjoy the controversy my original articles have engendered. When contemplating your theories, please bear in mind those factors that I consider most important: high grade, counterstamped very carefully, letters always in the exact same places and only on quarters. Keep up the good work!

*[Ed. - For more information on Counterstamped Stone Mountain Half Dollars refer to:*

*The Commemorative Trail*

*Winter 1987, Volume 4, Issue 1, pp. 16-25*

*Newsletter of the Society for U.S. Commemorative Coins*

*Membership information*

*P.O. Box 302*

*Huntington Beach, CA 92648*

*\$20 per year, Quarterly Newsletters, August to August*

*The Numismatist*

*February 1926, p 77*

*ANA membership magazine*

*818 North Cascade*

*Colorado Springs, CO 80903*

*\$26 per year, monthly magazines*

*Remember to tell them where you learned about their club!]*



# Die Bulges on Early Capped Bust Dimes

## John W. McCloskey

There is clear evidence that the Mint was having trouble with deterioration of coinage dies in the early part of the 19th century by examining the surviving specimens of this period. This die deterioration is usually seen through cracks that have appeared on the coins or through flow lines that are sometimes visible on the coins. A rather unusual problem showed up in the Bust Dime series in 1814 when many of the dies failed through metal fatigue. This failure occurs when the die simply collapses at certain points along its surface. This results in bulges on the coin due to the lack of pressure on the planchet during striking. Evidence of this defect is shown on an 1814 JR-2 dime in the picture below. This coin would grade a nice EF-40, but there are two very weak spots created by die bulges in the reverse die. The first die bulge occurs on the reverse at the lettering ERICA in AMERICA. The bulge is so extensively developed that no image at all appears at the letters RIC. The lack of pressure in this area is clearly demonstrated on the obverse where the 10th and 11th stars are completely missing. These stars are missing not from wear to the coin but from the lack of pressure on the planchet when the coin was struck.

There is a second, less developed, bulge on the reverse running through the olive branch, the eagle's left wing and the U in UNITED. The pressure for this bulge was strong enough so that the features of the design are still visible but the field in this area of the coin is raised. As the die would continue to fatigue, the pressure in this area would diminish and the design on subsequent coins would be weaker. Coins struck from these dies would also wear unevenly as the design would quickly wear off in the area where the field on the coin is raised. On lower grade specimens it is often difficult to determine just how developed the bulge was when the coin was struck. That is, it is impossible to determine if the worn area once contained a shallow image from the weakened die.



The problem with metal fatigue to the coin dies appears to have been limited to the dime series and even then for a period of only a few years. Die bulges appear on late die state specimens of four of the five varieties of 1814 dimes. Bulges are found on about half of the varieties of 1820 dimes and are known for three varieties of 1821 dimes. Die bulges are rarely seen on coins of other years in the dime series and were not a problem in the striking of coins of the other silver denominations.

The presence of these die bulges raises some interesting questions. Pressure on the coin dies usually resulted in cracks developing in the dies as they were being used. But for a period of a few years, this pressure resulted in metal fatigue which caused the dies to buckle but not crack. Why were these problems with die bulges limited to the striking of dimes and how was this problem corrected? These are questions that have not been resolved to my knowledge. Historical documents might possibly clarify some of the problems that Mint officials were encountering during this period.

The presence of these die bulges has made it difficult to grade many of these dimes

encountered today. Coins in the EF range are often downgraded because of weaknesses in the design due to these die defects. Coins in the VG-F range are downgraded because the raised fields in the area of the bulge cause the surfaces to wear unevenly. The surface under a bulge quickly wears smooth and the design is disrupted, lowering the value of an otherwise pleasing collector coin. The extra wear at the bulge will depend upon the strength of the bulge, with many late die state specimens showing greater weakness than expected for their grade. Only a detailed study of this unusual die failure problem will reveal the location and strength of all of the distracting bulges that appear on early Capped Bust Dimes.





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# Die Charts for Capped Bust Half Dimes

## Stephen A. Crain

The Capped Bust series of Half Dimes is one of the shortest series in all of United States Coinage, spanning a mere nine years from 1829 through 1837. Produced only at the 'Mother Mint' in Philadelphia, the total mintage for the series is estimated at only a little over 13 million pieces, or about equal to the large cent production for just the years 1837 and 1838. Yet this fascinating series presently comprises ninety (90) different varieties, or die marriages, and a host of intriguing progressive die states.

In 1931, Dr. Daniel W. Valentine produced a milestone reference work on the entire half dime series (1792 - 1873) which easily surpassed the earlier works by Harold P. Newlin and Will W. Neil. It was a more complete and detailed reference than the previous works. However, Valentine's imprecise methodology for diagnostics, combined with his vague and ambiguous verbal descriptions, made positive attributions difficult.

Walter Breen's Contribution, *United States Half Dimes: A Supplement*, was originally published in 1958 as Whole No. 160 of **The Coin Collector's Journal** by Wayne Raymond Publications. This work included much additional information and more detail than its predecessors on the Pre-Gobrecht half dimes.

The supplemental **Variety Identification Manual for United States Half Dimes 1794 - 1837 (VIM)**, published by Jules Reiver in 1984, has proven to be an invaluable aid in attributing the numerous varieties and die states for the series. This masterful work outlines a precise and easy to use diagnostic method for attribution. The obverse die is designated by a four letter code and a four digit code is used to designate the reverse die. These codes represent the relative positions of the various devices to each other on the respective dies. Such representations have been widely used in the study and attribution of Bust Halves and other denominations, and are quite familiar to many numismatists. The reader is directed to the half dime **VIM** for a detailed discussion of the obverse and reverse codes and their use.

With this more precise and coded representation for the working dies, it is significantly easier to study patterns in the use of the various dies. It has been well documented that there was an almost random nature to the selection of the specific dies that were used in any particular marriage in the early days of the Mint. While present day coinage laws

prohibit the minting of coins with dates other than that of the actual year of issue, early Mint officials somehow did not feel restricted by such petty regulations. Thus, it was not uncommon to begin the minting of coins for an upcoming year in December of the previous year, or even earlier, or using dies in subsequent years to their dates. Such practices render mintage figures suspect, as there is no way to know what dates were included in the counts for a given year.

A related practice confuses mintage figures even further, and provides considerable intrigue for die variety collectors. In the early days of the Mint, it was not common practice to deface or destroy obverse (dated) dies at the end of the year. Typically, such dies were simply removed from the press and stored on a shelf, often to be pressed back into further service at a later date. Such practices occurred with both the obverse and reverse dies, and they were often paired in seemingly random nature. Thus it would be possible for a specific reverse die to be used in a given year until its use caused a die crack or break that forced its removal from service. Later, this same reverse die, identifiable by its diagnostic crack or break, might be paired with an even earlier dated obverse die to meet a specific production demand. Thus, when the coins are studied chronologically, the apparent earliest use of the die exhibits cracks or breaks while the apparent latter use of the die, in subsequent years, exhibits no such deterioration. This gives the appearance that the die was somehow repaired.

Bust Half enthusiasts have devised charts outlining the apparent 'emission order' of coins struck from the various dies. I am not aware of any such published data for the Bust Half Dime series other than Valentine's occasional reference to subsequent reuse of a specific die, although his notes in this regard were incomplete. More accurate and complete die information is to be found contained within the codes in Jules Reiver's **VIM**. The accompanying charts list the obverse and reverse dies respectively, detailing their recurrent use over the nine year period of issue for the Bust Half Dime series. Obverse dies are listed in alphabetical order of their four letter codes and reverse dies are listed in numerical order of their four digit numerical codes. Information for these charts is taken directly from the **VIM**, and no new die information is presented here. No attempt has been made to arrange the dies in any supposed chronological order or sequence. I will leave that work to others.

Several interesting points should be made in reference to the charts. Two minor corrections have been made to Jules' codes for the reverse dies where unnecessary duplication was apparent. Reverse dies 2238 and 2338 are considered to be the same die, and



should not be differentiated. Valentine specifically noted the subsequent reuse of this die, which first appeared in 1832 V7, then 1834 V3 (and V4) and finally 1835 V8. The correct designation for this die, in my eye, should be 2238. Also, the last digit should probably be a 9, rather than an 8, as I agree with Valentine that "... the label ends under the center of the M."

Similarly, reverse dies designated as 23410 and 23510 are considered to be the same die. The use of this die in both 1829 and 1830 is noted by Valentine. Both of these examples of apparent redundancy are designated by joining brackets in the chart.

The chart contains two examples of reverse die designations that were not duplicated in the VIM, but should have been. That is, there are two examples of reverse dies that have precisely the same numerical designation, but are actually distinctly different dies. These are the dies designated 2115 and 4225. The die listed in the chart as 2115-1 has a large 5C and A3 does not touch the arrow. The die listed as 2115-2 has a small 5C and A3 touches the upper arrow. Similarly, the two reverse dies designated 4225-1 and 4225-2 are also different. Although identically coded, indicating similar alignment of the legend with the scroll, these dies are actually different. The 4225-1 reverse die, used extensively from 1829 through 1832, is easily identified by a filled bottom of F1 in the legend.

It is interesting to note from the chart that while there is apparently widespread reuse of the reverse dies, no obverse dies were reused in other years. This agrees with our present knowledge that there are no known overdates in the series. Two repunched dates (1834 V5, 3 over reversed 3 and 1836 V4, 3 over reversed 3) are known, but no overdate varieties have been discovered for the series.

On the obverse die charts, two codes do recur seeming to indicate the possibility of a reused die. These are the BCLU and BUCU dies. However, careful study of several of the varieties denoted by these codes would seem to indicate mere coincidence in the alignments of the devices, rather than a subsequent reuse of the dies. In the former case (BCLU), the date numerals used for 1832 V1 and V12 were of the standard size for that period, while the latter appearance of the same code (1837 V2 and V5) utilized the smaller numeral punches. There is no evidence that the 1832 die was lapped or ground and repunched with the 1837 numerals. Thus, the separate designations (BCLU LG and BCLU SM) have been used to differentiate these distinctly different dies.



Similarly, the BUCU obverse die used extensively in 1829 appears to be a different die from the BUCU die used in 1832. There is no evidence of repunching of the numerals (other than at the top of the 1 on the 1829 pieces), and the similar designation of these dies is considered to be coincidental. Perhaps they too, should be listed separately on the charts.

The half dime student can derive much useful information from these charts and they can be an important tool in the study of the series. One meaningful use of the charts would be to designate which varieties are present in your own collection, perhaps by underlining or highlighting the variety where it appears on the chart. Then proceed to the left in that same row and designate the die with an asterisk (\*) in the left hand margin. This will immediately designate which of the 39 possible obverse dies and 34 possible reverse dies are represented in your collection. Thus, while you may very well be missing some R6, R7 or R8 marriages, you may have representative examples of the dies used in those marriages. This allows for study and comparison without actually owning the rarest varieties. For example, my own collection comprises 60 of the 90 known varieties, but contains 33 of the 34 reverse dies and 35 of the 39 obverse dies.

Comments, corrections, additions or revisions to these charts are welcomed. They are intended as an aid in the study of this fascinating series. There is never a final word in Numismatics. Continued study will inevitably, and hopefully, foster revision of the present knowledge. Incidentally, Jules recently indicated to me that the pending update of his half dime **VIM** is progressing, but is continually slowed by the introduction of new information submitted to him by fellow Half Dime enthusiasts. Keep up the good work guys, and happy hunting.

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PLAUDITS, PANS AND PERPLEXING POINTS

(continued from page 6)



I want to extend my congratulations to the new editors of the **JR Journal**. They were able to publish Volume 6, Issue 2 while I was still procrastinating with Volume 6, Issue 1. They did a marvelous job. I am sure I speak not just for myself when I state, it is good to see JRCS active again.

Keep up the good work, guys.

David J. Davis

Capped Bust Half Dimes - Obverse Dies

	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837
BBBB							V5		
BBCB						V2, 5			
BCCC							V3		
BCLU Lg				V1, 12 LD					
BCLU Sm									V2, 5 SD
BCUB								V1,5	
BUBL								V2, 6, 7	
BUCC				V2, 6, 7					
BUCU	V1, 5, 6, 8, 15, 16			V5, 13					
BULB	V7								
CBBC							V1, 6		
CBBU			V4, 5						
CBCU							V7		
CBLL							V2, 4, 8, 9		
CBLU						V1, 3			
CCBB								V3	
CCCC					V3, 4, 6, 10				
CCUU	V9, 12, 14								
CUBL	V3, 17, 18								
LB BB									V1, 4
LB BC								V4	
LB CB							V10, 11		
LB CC		V2, 5, 12							
LB UB					V1, 2, 5				
LCLL					V7, 8, 9				
LL BB									V3
LL CU				V8, 9, 10					
LL UL		V1							
LULC		V7, 11							
LU UC		V3, 8							
UB CC			V1, 3						
UB UL		V4, 6							
UB UU				V3, 4, 11, 14					
UCLB		V9, 10, 13							
UL BC						V4			
UL BU	V4, 10								
UU CL	V2, 11, 13								
UU UC			V2, 6, 7						

## Capped Bust Half Dimes - Reverse Dies

	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837
1116		V1		V1					
2115-1			V1	V11	V1, 10		V2 LG 5C		
2115-2							V1 SM 5C	V1, 2	
2125				V2	V2				
2139	V14, 15	V3, 4, 11, 13							
2225				V4, 13	V3				
2236	V2						V7		V2
2238				V7		V3, 4			
2326									V1
2338							V8		
2346								V6	
23410	V8, 9								
23510		V8, 9							
3235							V3		
3337	V3								
4138			V5						
4225-1	V1	V2	V2, 3, 4	V3, 10					
4225-2					V8	V1, 2			
4236							V11		
4237	V4, 5, 17	V5	V6						
4336								V4	
4357				V6	V5, 6				
5225								V3, 7	
5236							V4, 5, 6	V5	
5237									V4, 5
5348				V5, 14	V4, 9				
5349				V8, 12					
5368									V3
54610	V12	V10							
6346	V6, 13								
6349		V6, 7							
6366	V7								
6446	V10, 11, 16, 18	V12	V7						
64610							V9, 10		
76810						V5			
8469				V9	V7				





# A Rarity Analysis of R-4's and Above Capped Bust Half Dollars

Stephen J. Herrman

After the release last year of **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties**, Third Edition by Al C. Overton, edited by Donald L. Parsley, I thought that assembling a list of true R-4 and above Capped Bust Half Dollar die marriages would make an excellent reference sheet in my ongoing pursuit to acquire all 450 Overton die marriages. In addition, I generated a chart of the number of die marriages by year versus rarity. In my experience, R-1 through R-3 Capped Bust Half Dollars do not command a premium based solely on rarity. Accordingly, they have been combined into one total.

Please note that rarity ratings for die marriages with sub-varieties were based on the most common sub-variety. For example, the 1807 O-111 has three sub-varieties, the O-111 (R-6), the O-111a (R-4) and the O-111b (R-5) 'The Bearded Goddess', thus, I considered the 1807 O-111 die marriage to be an R-4 for the analysis.

Year	AO#	R	Desc.	#DM	Year	AO#	R	Desc.	#DM
1823	113	8		1	1809	104	5		3
					1809	112	5		4
1817	102	7	1817/4	1	1809	113	5		5
1825	118	7		2	1809	114	5		6
1827	148	7		3	1811	113	5		7
1827	149	7		4	1820	107	5		8
1829	120	7		5	1822	103	5		9
1832	123	7	Dash Date	6	1824	102	5	1824/1	10
					1824	114	5		11
1812	101	6	1812/1, Lg 8	1	1825	109	5		12
1817	104	6		2	1826	103	5		13
1823	109	6		3	1826	115	5		14
1827	137	6		4	1827	116	5		15
1830	114	6	Large Letters	5	1827	122	5		16
1831	120	6		6	1827	123	5		17
					1827	124	5		18
1808	110	5		1	1827	127	5		19
1809	101	5		2	1827	144	5		20

# A RARITY ANALYSIS OF R-4's AND ABOVE CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLARS

Year	AO#	R	Desc.	#DM	Year	AO#	R	Desc.	#DM
1827	145	5		21	1827	111	4		30
1828	105	5		22	1827	113	4		31
1828	123	5		23	1827	114	4		32
1829	106	5		24	1827	119	4		33
1832	109	5		25	1827	121	4		34
1832	117	5	1/1	26	1827	129	4		35
1833	115	5		27	1827	130	4		36
1836	121	5	Bar Dot Date	28	1827	133	4		37
					1827	134	4		38
1807	111	4	50/20	1	1827	138	4		39
1809	108	4		2	1827	139	4		40
1809	110	4		3	1827	140	4		41
1811	102	4	18.11/0	4	1827	147	4	Curl Base 2	42
1811	107	4		5	1828	106	4		43
1811	112	4		6	1828	111	4		44
1813	102	4		7	1828	121	4		45
1813	104	4		8	1829	104	4		46
1814	106	4		9	1829	107	4		47
1817	105	4		10	1829	109	4		48
1817	108	4		11	1829	116	4		49
1818	110	4		12	1829	118	4		50
1818	115	4		13	1830	105	4		51
1819	106	4	1819/8	14	1830	109	4		52
1820	104	4		15	1830	112	4		53
1821	107	4		16	1831	112	4		54
1822	102	4	1822/1	17	1831	113	4		55
1822	112	4		18	1831	115	4		56
1823	102	4	Patched 3	19	1831	117	4		57
1824	112	4		20	1831	118	4		58
1825	103	4		21	1832	108	4		59
1825	104	4		22	1832	114	4		60
1825	117	4		23	1833	111	4		61
1826	114	4		24	1834	110	4		62
1826	119	4		25	1834	118	4	1834/1834	63
1827	103	4	1827/6	26	1835	104	4		64
1827	108	4	Dotted Star	27	1836	103	4		65
1827	109	4		28	1836	109	4		66
1827	110	4		29	1836	118	4	Bar Dot Date	67

## Rarity Analysis of Capped Bust Half Dollar Die Marriages 1807 - 1836

Year	R-1 to 3	R-4	R-5	R-6	R-7	R-8	Total
1807	3	1					4
1808	9		1				10
1809	8	2	5				15
1810	10						10
1811	9	3	1				13
1812	9			1			10
1813	8	2					10
1814	8	1					9
1815	1						1
1817	9	2		1	1		13
1818	13	2					15
1819	14	1					15
1820	6	1	1				8
1821	6	1					7
1822	12	2	1				15
1823	10	1		1		1	13
1824	14	1	2				17
1825	13	3	1		1		18
1826	16	2	2				20
1827	22	17	7	1	2		49
1828	18	3	2				23
1829	13	5	1		1		20
1830	19	3		1			23
1831	14	5		1			20
1832	18	2	2		1		23
1833	13	1	1				15
1834	19	2					21
1835	9	1					10
1836	19	3	1				23
Total	342	67	28	6	6	1	450

*[ed. - For more information on Stephen's project, contact him at :  
2817 South Jay Street, Denver, CO 80227.]*





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# Dime Census

Russell J. Logan

Eight years ago after the Detroit ANA, I made a wager with Bill Subjack that within three months after the publication of the dime book a new die marriage would be discovered. Needless to say, I bought dinner and refused to make another similar wager. But, now almost eight years later we are still stuck with 151 marriages! The new generation of dime collector is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, mobile, affluent, and with keen eyes and good backs. I've been amazed at some of the 'new' diagnostics that they have discovered to make attributing on the bourse floor easier, but can't understand why they haven't found a new marriage. We found three bogus (contemporary) Bust Dimes, many new die states including some neat cuds, and many counterstamps and love tokens; but no new marriages!

It is interesting to note that many coins from the first JR Census have changed hands, but within JRCS. The Lovejoy Sale on October 16, 1990 was a memorable occasion. I had seen many of Allen's coins in piecemeal fashion: at shows, auctions, at ANS, and in New York, but never all in one place at one time. It was an opportunity to acquire some of the rarest of the rare at, of course, unheard of prices. And for those of you who like bargains, there were many R-2 and R-3's just short of Mint State that were very affordable. Prices ranged from \$93,500 to \$110; something for everyone.

I was prepared to duplicate the dime census format as published in **JR Journal** Volume 2, Issue 3 (December, 1987) when JRCS #359 submitted his census. It could not be ignored; so I apologize to all you Capped Bust Dime collectors who were not asked and therefore did not submit any Draped Bust Dime holdings. But I kept my promise and deleted the named sales (Robinson, Norweb, Bareford, & Garrett) from the census so there should not be any duplication of specific coins. A few rarity ratings have changed (lowered) for obvious reasons, but I did not make a federal case out of this effort so feedback is most welcome. The quarter census is next and is scheduled for some time this fall. Thanks for all your participation in compiling a meaningful census.

*[ed. - The date (May-92) has been put on the top of each page for historic purposes. This signifies when the census data was printed.]*

DIME CENSUS

May-92

R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1796	1	3	20	20															45	28	45
	2	4	8												25				50	29	50
	3	5	6	12															45	21	45
	4	4	15	15															58	29	58
	5	5	20												45				50	33	50
	6	3	30																45	38	45
1797	1	4	25	20											40				50	32	50
	2	4	12	20															45	26	45
1798	1	3	20	15															45	27	45
	2	6	8		50	50													60	42	60
	3	5	30																30	30	30
	4	3	15	15											20				50	27	50
1800	1	4	30																45	38	45
	2	5	12	20											60				40	24	40
1801	1	4	20	20											35				55	32	55
	2	5	25	30	45										50				55	39	55
1802	1	8																	45	45	45
	2	5	40	4											30				45	30	45
	3	6	3												15				50	27	50
	4	4	20	10	4										4				45	20	45
1803	1	7	3		3														45	17	45
	2	6	8		3														55	22	55
	3	4	8	20															50	26	50
	4	5	12	4	40			40											50	29	50
1804	1	5	10																45	28	45
	2	5	30	4	30														40	26	40
1805	1	3	10	20	10														60	25	60
	2	2	40	12	15														55	31	55

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R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1807	1	2	40	20														50		37	50
1809	1	4	40	15	30	58	12	50	35	40	20	15	10	30	50	30		40		32	58
1811	1	3	45	25	50	58	12	40	40	50	45			15	25	30	15	40		35	58
1814	1	3	20	30	40	60	12	40	12	55	40		8		50	50		45		36	60
	2	3	40	40	40	10	12	40	12	40	12		10		50	20		12		26	50
	3	2	55	40	45	60	10	55	12	20	50	10	6	20	30	20	45	50		33	60
	4	2	40	40	40	40	30	30	45	55	35		8	20	30	40	25			34	55
	5	3	30	40	55	58	20	45	8	12	15			12	12	15		35		27	58
1820	1	4	50	40	50	55	20	40	45	50	20	8	3			30	30			34	55
	2	3	45	25	45	40	12	50	20	45	40	10	2	15	20	12		20		27	50
	3	4	30	40	45	40	12	40	12	20	10	6								26	45
	4	5	20	40	40	40	15	45	30	20										31	45
	5	4	10	25	12	6	12	45	12	40	25	6	12							19	45
	6	3	30	40	30	45	12	25	12	45	50	4	4		35	12	4	10		24	50
	7	2	35	25	50	35	8	25	12	30	18	4	35	12	45	20	35	20		26	50
	8	3	30	25	50	50	35	30	15	55	12	15	8	15	35	55		35		31	55
	9	4	30	25	40	12	12	25	30	15	25		8		35					23	40
	10	3	25	40	40	55	12	20	8	12	50	6				8	30	35		26	55
	11	3	40	25	30	53	15	45	25	50	25	4	15		25	35		20		29	53
	12	7	35		55	40			35		30				50					41	55
	13	2	35	40	45	45	12	30	12	50	45			20		40		30		34	50
1821	1	2	40	25	50	25	6	40	20	63	45	6	8	25		25	25	20		28	63
	2	7	12		20			25	12											17	25
	3	4	30	25	30	30	15	50	25	15			12		40					27	50
	4	2	30	40	40	45	15	55	8	40	40	4	12	15	25	15	25	30		27	55
	5	3	45	25	30	53	12	40	12	12	45		15	20	35	25		25		28	53
	6	2	30	20	45	40	12	25	8	50	45	4	6	25	25	30		35		27	50
	7	2	40	25	40	55	10	45	12	45	40	4	3	25	15	45	15			28	55
	8	2	35	25	40	45	40	40	12	50	45	6	20			10		35		31	50
	9	2	40	15	45	35	15	40	8	12	30	10	15	15	25	12	30	8		22	45
	10	3	50	25	40	50	15	40	12	55	10	25	3	20	20	20				28	55



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R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1822	1	4	40	25	25	58	6	50	12	55	45		4	12	30	12		35		29	58
1823	1	3	30	40	40	55	15	40	12	50	25	10	8	15	20	55	20	30		29	55
	2	5	15	25	40	45	12	50	10	30	15		8			10	4			22	50
	3	2	40	40	40	45	12	50	30	45	18	6	6	20		30		40		30	50
1824	1	3	40	40	55	60	15	45	40	40	45	4	8	15		20	45	30		33	60
	2	6	30	45	6	30	3		10				8			25				20	45
1825	1	4	20	25	45	55	4	50	25	50	25		10	15		10		30		28	55
	2	2	25	25	25	40	15	40	40	55	45	6	10	25		30		15		28	55
	3	3	45	25	30	45	10	45		4	35	6	15		8	12				23	45
	4	2	25	50	45	30	15	30	30	50	30	6	3	20	25	20		8		26	50
	5	5	15	40	40	55	20	15	8	8	15		3			10	4			19	55
1827	1	2	30	25	30	40	15	40	12	30	50		6			5				26	50
	2	5	8	40	20	12	3	10	30	8	15	10					8			15	40
	3	1	45	40	50	40	11	45	8	55	40	6	30	30		15				32	55
	4	2	30	40	50	30	15	45	12	15	40	10	30	20		15	25	35		27	50
	5	3	30	40	45	30	8	25	10	45	18	6	10			12				23	45
	6	2	50	40	25	40	15	45	50	45	40			20		20	15			34	50
	7	3	12	40	30	50	12	40	12	45	15	6	6		8	15	40			24	50
	8	4	30	25	40	35	12	45	6	20	12	10	3			12				21	45
	9	5	50	40	30	55	15	30	12	20	10		15	15	45	25	8			26	55
	10	7																		0	0
	11	2	40	25	45	12	12	50	30	45	30	8	10	30		12		10		26	50
	12	1	40	25	40	40	8	45	12	45	50	20	6	15		12				28	50
	13	3	50	25	55	45	12	45	15	45	35	10	25	12	12	30	8	35		29	55
1828	1	2	35	25	50	40	12	45	15	60	45	4	40	25		45	8	53		33	60
	2	3	50	25	45	55	8	40	35	55	6	6		20		40		35		32	55

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R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1829	1	4	35	40	45	60	20	40	10	15	8	10	4	25	10					25	60
	2	2	50	25	45	50	15	40	10	45	40	6	6	45			30			31	50
	3	4	50	25	45	45	20	15	50	50	40	15	20	30	6					32	50
	4	2	40	25	40	60	30	45	12	50	10	10	15	20	25		30			29	60
	5	4	45	40	50	50	30	25	8		45		40							37	50
	6	3	40	50	50	50	20	55	8	55	45	15		30						38	55
	7	1	45	45	40	55	25	60	30	55	55	6	10	15						37	60
	8	4	40	45	50	35	30	25	8	4	8		12							26	50
	9	4	20	40	45	20	20	60	10	55	35	6	3							29	60
	10	6	10	15	6	8				10										10	15
	11	4	45	25	55	25	10	20	6	4	10	6	8	25						20	55
	12	3	40	40	55	45	20	40	8	55	12	6	10	15	12		12			26	55
1830	1	5	20	25	25	12	10	10	45	8	10		12		8		12			16	45
	2	1	55	45	40	45	15	40	12	50	50	15	10	12						32	55
	3	3	60	50	60	55	20	40	35	30	25	10	6							36	60
	4	2	50	50	50	45	30	25	35	40	45	6	12	30						35	50
	5	2	45	45	40	35	15	40	20	40	30	10	8	25						29	45
	6	2	40	40	40	50	10	25	8	40	45	10	15	25						29	50
	7	4	40	40	25	30	12	25	30	50	8	6	8	15						24	50
	8	3	40	40	40	30	20	40	10	55	45	6	8							30	55
1831	1	1	50	40	45	30	12	40	30	50	45	6		15			40			34	50
	2	3	45	25	40	12	8	25	12	8	50	4								23	50
	3	1	40	25	40	50	4	20	12	40	45	4			35					29	50
	4	2	40	40	40	40	30	45	25	40	30	15	10	20			30			31	45
	5	1	50	40	40	50	20	50	35	45	30	10		20	15					34	50
	6	3	40	40	40	45	20	30	8	45	30	10	40	25	12		12			28	45
1832	1	2	40	25	45	50	15	60	30	8	40	10	8	30	30		12			29	60
	2	2	45	40	40	30	15	45	15	40	35	6		20	30		40			31	45
	3	3	15	40	40	35	4	40	6	4	8	6	20	25						20	40
	4	3	40	25	40	35	8	45	10	50		10		12						28	50
	5	2	45	50	60	30	25	40	15	50	50	15	53							39	60
	6	3	50	40	45	55	12	40	8	40	40	10					45			35	55
	7	3	40	40	60	45	12	20	10	8	30			12						28	60

DIME CENSUS

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R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1833	1	3	60	40	40	40	30	40	30	40	35	15	15	30	30		12			33	60
	2	5	62	8	40	60	35	25	12	8				25	55					33	62
	3	7	50	20	20	60	12													32	60
	4	1	30	40	55	12	12	40	4	50	10	10			12					25	55
	5	1	50	25	55	30	15	45	10	55	50	10	8	20						31	55
	6	1	45	25	50	50	20	40	12	55	45	6	10	25	12					30	55
	7	6	50	40	25	55	55				8	15	15							33	55
	8	5	45	40	40	55	45	10	12	30			12	20	35					31	55
	9	2	55	40	45	50	30	30	20	55	45	10	10		35		25			35	55
	10	3	45	40	45	40	40	45	30	60	25	10	10							35	60
1834	1	1	40	25	45	50	15	30	8	60	50	6	8	15						29	60
	2	3	45	40	55	45	15	20	30	50	45	10	40	25	35		35			35	55
	3	6	30	8	20	55	12	40	45	4		40	8							26	55
	4	5	45	40	40	45	15	25	12	40	35	10	10	8	25		25			27	45
	5	1	40	40	40	25	30	45	20	50	40	6	10	30			40			32	50
	6	2	50	40	50	20	12	40	10	35	30	10	8	25			30			28	50
	7	2	30	40	55	50	15	40	35	50	35	6	20	25	10					32	55
1835	1	1	45	25	45	50	12	40	10	50	50	10	30	20	35		35			33	50
	2	4	40	40	30	40	15	30	20	50	25	20								31	50
	3	2	45	40	50	55	12	25	35	45	60	10	8							35	60
	4	2	40	40	40	10	15	25	40	35	50	10	20	15						28	50
	5	1	50	40	45	30	12	40	10	55	45	10		25			25			32	55
	6	4	50	40	30	40	12	40	35	60	8	6	6							30	60
	7	5	40	40	40	20	12	12	12	12	10	6	10		12					19	40
	8	3	30	25	40	20	12	25	12	45	50	12								27	50
	9	2	40	25	50	55	40	45	12	50	40	6	12	20			30			33	55
1836	1	3	50	25	55	45	20	45	12	45	35	6	8	25	12					29	55
	2	2	40	40	50	20	12	45	10	45	30	6		30	30		15			29	50
	3	3	50	25	55	60	12	45	10	50	50	6		12	30					34	60



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R#			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359	AVG	MAX
1837	1	4	45	50	30	45	15	30	45	45	63	6	3							34	63
	2	3	45	25	25	55	20	30	8	55	40	6	15	25						29	55
	3	2	30	40	30	25	15	45	8	40	55	6	8		10		40			27	55
	4	1	40	25	50	30	15	45	20	50	45	6	12	25	8					29	50

			006	002	003	004	048	001	263	181	012	179	323	051	013	016	578	100	359		
OWNED			149	137	130	121	118	117	117	115	111	93	92	74	64	47	43	31	29	151	
AVG. GRADE			35	31	40	41	16	37	19	39	33	9	12	21	27	23	24	29	48	KNOWN	
																				VARIETIES	
R#	15		15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	10	13	6	2	4	0	0	(business	
	1		44	34	45	39	15	42	16	51	43	9	13	21	20	14	35	0	0	& proof)	
R#	37		37	37	36	35	35	35	35	35	35	31	31	29	15	18	20	14	2		
	2		39	34	43	39	17	40	20	42	39	8	14	23	26	24	27	28	53		
R#	40		40	39	36	35	35	35	34	35	34	29	24	21	21	18	12	14	5		
	3		37	32	43	45	15	38	16	40	32	9	13	19	24	26	23	29	49		
R#	27		27	25	20	19	19	19	19	18	18	13	17	7	10	5	1	3	8		
	4		31	29	36	39	15	37	22	35	24	9	10	22	28	19	30	35	50		
R#	19		19	16	13	10	10	11	10	10	7	3	7	4	10	3	6	0	9		
	5		27	26	36	40	18	25	18	18	16	9	10	17	37	15	10	0	44		
R#	7		7	4	6	5	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	3		
	6		20	27	18	40	23	40	28	7	8	28	10	0	15	25	0	0	55		
R#	5		4	1	4	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
	7		25	20	25	50	12	25	24	0	30	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	45		
R#	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	8		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45		



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# Broken Arrows

**Lenny Schramm**

Collectors have long seemed to be able to find some reason to justify the purchase of a coin. Among those reasons are affordability, eye appeal, a missing variety and, on a rare occasion, something of interest.

Sometime ago, at a local coin club meeting, I was offered a PCGS EF-45 1829 Capped Bust Half Dollar by a dealer who knew of my interest in the series. The coin was toned a deep brown with tinges of gold. Needless to say, I was in love. The price quoted was well over 'Gray Sheet ask', but not unreasonable. Having now fulfilled two of the required conditions, I was then more than happy to discover it was an O-105, a variety missing from my collection.

Later that evening, I noticed something that had escaped me earlier. The arrow shafts are not joined to the eagle's talon correctly. In fact, they are not joined at all; the result of die lapping.

Die lapping, or polishing, was used during the final preparation of the die, and, most often, to remove damage such as heavy clash marks. In the final stages of a die's life, lapping was often used to prolong the usability of the die by removing the flow lines. These flow lines are very aptly described by the phrase "drawn to the edge." This die lapping, which enhances the overall appearance of the die and the subsequent coins struck, also changes the die's appearance. By lowering the surface of the die, any clash marks and bifurcation of the letters and stars are diminished. At this point, a strange phenomenon occurs. The depth of the die is now reduced and the stars, letters and other features of the design are more shallow and further apart than they were before.



Occasionally the lapping is more severe than intended. Three perfect examples of this are the 1812 O-110a, 1814 O-105a and 1817 O-106a; all of which are called ‘single leaf’ varieties.

The reverse of the O-105, in an early die state, has sharp letters in the legend. The arrowheads are close to the shafts above and there is recutting along the bottom edge of the center shaft.

The accompanying photo clearly shows the result of extensive lapping in one area. The C in the denomination has all but disappeared, the recutting of the center shaft is also gone, the distance between the arrowheads and the shafts has increased, and the arrow shafts themselves are no longer in the eagle’s grasp.

Over the past year I have seen two other coins in the same die state, and was recently told of a third. The O-105 is listed as an R-1 in Overton’s **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties**, and therefore is considered a common variety. In this instance, however, it is a most welcome addition to my collection, simply because it is so interesting.

Rod Stewart asks, “Who else is going to bring you a broken arrow?”

If not he, a Bust Half Nut will.

*[ed - Robbie Robertson, former lead singer of The Band, had the original cut of the song **Broken Arrow**. Rod Stewart made a cover of this same song.]*



**Answers to  
Twenty-Some Questions on Baby Busties**

1-b	2-a	3-b	4-a	5-b	6-c	7-b
8-b	9-a	10-c	11-b	12-b	13-b	14-c
15-a	16-c	17-b	18-b	19-b	20-a	21-a
22-b	23-c	24-a	25-c			

Question 26: If you know the answer, please send information to the editors for inclusion in future **JR Journals**.



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# One Little Berry ... Revisited

Glenn Peterson

My title should bring to mind the article written by James D. Brilliant in Volume 5, Issue 2 (October, 1990) of the **JR Journal**. At the Bowers and Merena Auction (James D. Brilliant's Collection at FUN '92), I viewed James' 1795 O-101 on which he discovered the 'extra berry' not previously identified. As I viewed his high grade specimen, I could readily see how a little wear could have obliterated such a small berry so close to the wreath.

The 'one little berry' to which I refer is not the one on the 1795 O-101, but rather on the 1794 O-110. The finest known 1794 O-110 was auctioned off in the same Bowers and Merena Auction. I inspected this coin while sitting next to our new co-editor, Brad Karoleff. I had not brought my 'large', Third Edition Overton to the viewing room so Brad let me borrow his 1970 edition Overton and the 1987 BHNC supplement. The 1794 had 9 berries left and 9 berries right which did not match the supplement (nor in fact, does it match the Third Edition Overton for the O-110) which describes it as 8 berries left and 9 berries right.

I looked in the 1970 edition, and noted Overton's comment about the 1794 O-103 that the late state had a die "crack spanning reverse from edge above A2, across top of eagle's head, left wing and through D to edge." The coin's die crack certainly matched this description. "Could this be a 103," I asked myself? About that time, Sheridan Downey came by, greeted me and said that the 1794 O-110 was one of three known, and a beauty at that. Now Sheridan is no slouch when it comes to attributing Busties, so I went back to studying the coin to see if I had gone wrong somewhere. Overton's description of reverse C further matched the O-110: "Point of leaf below I in AMERICA is about half way across and well clear of the base." The berry in question was the ninth berry on the left side, very close to the die crack that passes through the 'D'.

I showed the coin to Brad who compared the catalogue picture of an O-103 with the O-110 coin. He noticed that the berry below 'I' was under the left side on the O-103, whereas on the O-110 it was under the center to right side. I also noticed that the berry below 'E' was under the center of the stand on the O-103 yet under the center of the entire letter on the O-110. So it was, indeed, the O-110 and Overton's berry count is incorrect.

Apparently, on the other two known specimens, the die crack was so close to the berry that just a bit of wear obliterated the berry. The description of the die crack had to be wrong in the 1970 edition of Overton's book. With interest, I went back to my room and took out my Third Edition Overton. Don Parsley had corrected the description of the die crack on the O-103 but he still listed the berries as 8 - 9 on the O-110. He probably had not seen this 'finest known specimen' before publishing the Third Edition.

This was truly FUN!



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# **Treasurer's Notes - A Dues Notice**

**Russell J. Logan**

Notices for 1991-92 dues were never mailed to the membership, as it did not seem appropriate to charge for products not delivered. However, this did not deter many of you from paying; and thanks to Brad and Keith we did deliver three JR Journals. With Volume 6 now complete (3 issues) and our fiscal year about to close 30-Sept-92, we would like to put the treasury back in phase with our fiscal year.

Your Board supports the concept of increasing the publication of the Journal to quarterly as long as there is ample, quality material available for future Journals and a willing Editor. But each Journal costs about \$4 to print and mail, and it does not take a MBA from Harvard to realize that a dues adjustment is inevitable.

Now here is the Catch-22: our By-Laws (Section 8.1) limit the annual dues to \$10. Any By-Laws changes require approval by the Board of Directors, notice to the membership, and finally approval by the membership. At this time, your Board suggests that each member, if he supports an additional issue of the JR Journal each year, voluntarily add \$5 to the required \$10 and submit it (\$15) to the JRCS Treasurer P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030, on or before September 30th. You may also wish to consider upgrading your membership category to Life; it's still only \$250.



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## **Back Issues of the JR Journal**

After the 'blurb' in JR Journal Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992) about the dwindling number of back issues, quite a few members purchased copies to complete their library. There were even a number of members that bought complete sets in addition to the ones that they already own. After this brisk activity with back issues, this may be your last chance to complete your set before they are sold out.

There is no plan to reprint any of these in the near future, so it would be in your best interest to order now. To order, send \$3.50 per copy or 3 issues for \$10.00 to:

JRCS Back Issues, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030





